

LUISA PASSERINI

CURRICULUM VITAE

(abridged)

Place and Date of Birth Asti (Italy), 2 February 1941

Citizenship Italian

Languages Italian, English and French

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EDUCATION

1959 Secondary School Diploma in Classical Studies, Liceo Classico “Vittorio Alfieri”, Asti, Italy

1960 High School Diploma, Irondequoit High School, Rochester, NY, USA

1965 Laurea, *magna cum laude*, Philosophy and History, University of Turin. Her dissertation, “The Concept of Historical Crisis in the Philosophies of Henri de Saint-Simon and Auguste Comte,” was awarded the National Prize Piero Martinetti.

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor Emerita, Department of History and Civilisation, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Former Professor of Cultural History, University of Turin, Italy

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 1969-73 Teaching Assistant, University of Turin; High School Teacher
- 1974-84 Assistant Professor of Contemporary History, University of Turin, Italy
- 1984-94 Associate Professor of Methodology of History, University of Turin, Italy
- 1989 Fall Visiting Professor, University of Western Australia, Perth, and University of Sydney
- 1990 Spring Directeur d'Études, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France
- 1990 Fall Visiting Professor, New School for Social Research, New York, USA
- 1991 Fall Fellow, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany
- 1992-93 Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin, Germany
- 1993 Fall Visiting Professor, New York University, Department of History, New York, USA
- 1994-2002 Professor of History of the Twentieth Century, Department of History and Civilisation, EUI, Florence, Italy
- 1998 Spring Visiting Professor, New York University, Department of History, New York, USA
- 1999 Full Professorship of Contemporary History in Italian Universities
- 2001 Visiting Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- 2002 Coordinator of the Summer Institute in Advanced Oral History, UC Berkeley, USA

2002-2004 Resident Fellow, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany

2004-2011 Professor of Cultural History, University of Turin, Italy

2008-2017 Visiting Professor, Oral History, MA Program, Columbia University, New York, USA

PROFILE

Professor Passerini's research has explored several themes across various fields. She has studied the history of actors of social and cultural change in African liberation movements, as well as workers', students', and women's movements in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Her research has focused on individual and collective forms of oral memory through interviews and testimonies with the aim to develop a new perspective on the history of Fascism, gender, and generational identities. She has paid particular attention to the methodology of history and the relationship between history and the social sciences, shedding light on the links between sources, objects and methods, as well as their interpretation in the context of a history of subjectivity.

From 1993 to 2010, Professor Passerini was involved in several research projects on the relationship between discourses on Europe and love in Britain, France, and Italy, with a special focus on the interwar period. Her research was aimed at deconstructing Eurocentrism in the field of passions through the analysis of the emotional and symbolic aspects of European identity in historical perspective. She also offered a critical interpretation of the sense of identity/belonging in the post-colonial world, where hierarchical structures involving Europe and other continents – or European regions such as the East and the South – are no longer viable. Her sources included texts of various kinds, such as literature on European federalism, novels, and personal correspondence; an iconographic dimension was provided by the history of artistic representations of the myth of Europa, generally regarded as one of the symbols of European culture and civilization. Her research

produced several publications, including three monographs, two edited volumes, an edited special issue of an international journal, and a number of articles and essays.

From 2013 to 2018, Professor Passerini was Principal Investigator of the research project “Bodies Across borders: Oral and visual Memory in Europe and Beyond” (BABE), funded by the European Research Council and based at the Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Florence. Broadening the scope of her long-standing work on memory beyond orality to include visuality, she investigated autobiographical memory as a form of subjectivity rooted in intersubjective communication, as well as practices of intersubjective visuality informing new ways of envisaging Europe and Europeanness. The visual dimension of the project, in which bodies were postulated as both subjects and objects of processes of memory, mobility, and visuality, has revealed the ongoing construction of new forms of memory that challenge traditional concepts of European identity and sense of belonging as well as the dominant visuality.

Within the context of the global diaspora, the mobility of human bodies crossing European frontiers, both geographical and cultural, was investigated through a variety of sources: video art, photography, the media, and migrants’ memories collected during fieldwork. Other strands of research included the role of the archive (in both a literal and cultural sense) as well as didactics and knowledge transfer. Key to the BABE project was its transdisciplinary approach: although situated within the field of cultural history, it borrowed concepts and methods from other socio-historical disciplines such as geography and anthropology, drawing on ideas of subjectivity in the visual arts, poetry and literature. However, visual sources were not interpreted from the point of view of art history, but rather from a cultural history perspective.

A major hypothesis was raised that a process of co-construction of new forms of visual memory might be currently underway in Europe, leading to a joint effort involving different strands of research: special focus was placed on the analysis of visual artwork (e.g., by photographers and

video artists) on the themes of borders and immigration to Europe, as well as on the documentation produced by the migrants themselves during fieldwork. Fieldwork was conducted in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Spain, where around 500 women and men from an extremely diverse cultural, social and geographic background – and generally aged between 16 and 55 – were interviewed. Migrants were approached individually and/or collectively, often in schools where they took classes to improve their command of Italian or Dutch. During interviews, they were shown artwork on the theme of migration and then asked to create images of their own itineraries. The material collected by the BABE project includes drawings, photographs, collage and videos, which have been deposited at the Historical Archives of the European Union, EUI, Florence, in compliance with all ethical and legal requirements.

The BABE project has produced two collective volumes, a monograph authored by the PI, a journal special issue, a number of individual articles, two documentaries, and two exhibitions.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1965-1979

Recipient of awards from the Italian Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, the Italian Ministry of Education, and Turin's Municipality for oral history research projects on "Culture and Daily Life of the Subaltern Classes in Piedmont 1900-1950."

1982-1986

Directed the Italian research unit in the comparative study on "Car-Workers in Coventry and Turin," whose British unit was led by Paul Thompson, University of Essex. Directed the Italian unit in the comparative research project on "Social structures and collective representations in four communities in France and Italy," led in France by Yves Lequin, Université de Lyon.

1995-2007

Participated in the International Research Program on “Les identités européennes au XX siècle,” directed by Robert Frank and Gérard Bossuat (Paris I); co-chair the research sub-group based at Humboldt University, Berlin, with Prof. Kaelble.

2000-2002

Directed the research project “Gender relationships in Europe at the turn of the millennium: women as subjects in migration and marriage” (GRINE) within the Fifth Framework of the European Union. The project was based at the European University Institute, Florence (Schuman Centre and Department of History and Civilisation), with the participation of universities in Copenhagen, Budapest, Sofia, and Utrecht.

2002-2004

Directed the international research project “Europe: Emotions, Politics and Identities,” based at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany.

2004-2006

Directed the research project “Images of Europe 1989-2004: The Construction of European Identity through Cinema,” based at the University of Turin and funded by the Fondazione Compagnia San Paolo, Turin.

2005-2007

Directed the research project “Aging in Turin in Multicultural Perspective,” based at the University of Turin and at the Fondazione Fabretti, Turin, with the support of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino.

2013-2018

Principal Investigator, European Research Project “Bodies Across Borders: Oral and Visual Memory in Europe and Beyond”, based at the Department of History and Civilisation, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

AWARDS AND HONORS

1999 “XXXIV Premio Internazionale Le Muse: Clio,” for the category “History,” Florence, Italy

2002-4 Research Prize awarded by the Land of Nordrhein-Westphalen at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany

2014 European Academies (ALLEA) Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

1989 Co-founder of the Società Italiana delle Storiche (SIS)

1991 Co-founder of the Centro Interdisciplinare Ricerche e Studi delle Donne (CIRSDE – Women Studies Centre) at the University of Turin

1981-85 Editor-in-chief of the journal “Fonti orali. Studi e ricerche,” Turin, Italy. Member of the Scientific Committee of Biennale Democrazia, an international, multi-day culture and arts event promoted by the Municipality of Turin. Member of the Academic Committee of the House of European History, European Parliament, Brussels.